Smuggling people on forged documents

4506. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has unearthed illegal operations, smuggling the people on forged documents;

(b) if so, which travel agents, officials and leaders are involved in the human smuggling racket;

(c) how many of the culprits have been brought to book;

(d) since when the racket has been in operation, how many people were smuggled and to which countries; and

(e) what steps are being taken to check such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) The National Crime Record Bureau compiles information about the cases registered, persons arrested etc. under the provisions of the Indian Passport Act; however the data of persons arrested does not classify such persons by their professions. This Ministry is aware of the recent case of Shri Babubhai Katara Khimabhai, MP, who was intercepted on 18.4.2007 while intending to take two impersonators to Canada on the passport of his wife and son. The number of cases registered, number of persons arrested and number of persons charge-sheeted under the Indian Passport Act during 2003-05 is indicated below:—

Year	Cases registered	Persons Arrested	Persons Charge-sheeted
2003	555	1242	1016
2004	807	1169	834
2005	1120	1820	1690

(e) "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, and the State Governments are primarily responsible for the detection, registration and investigation of

crime and prosecution of the offenders. However, the Central Government have taken certain measures to apprehend persons travelling on forged and fake travel documents at airports:

(i) Use of magnifying glasses and ultra violet lamps at all International airports.

(ii) Issuance of machine readable passports, which are more secure.

(iii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines at all major international airports. Further more, special training is also imparted to Immigration Officers to detect forged/fake travel documents.

Police personnel involved in custodial deaths

†4507. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise details regarding the number of custodial deaths during the last three years;

(b) the reasons generally attributed to these deaths;

(c) whether such incidents have gone up;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of policemen who got punishment in such cases during last three years stating the nature of punishment they got?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) As per available information, State/UT-wise number of cases registered, policemen charge-sheeted and convicted in connection with deaths of persons remanded by Courts and not remanded to police custody by Courts during the years 2003-04 and 2005 are given in the enclosed Statements I and II respectively. The reasons generally attributed to these deaths are illness/natural death, escaping from custody, suicides, attacks by other criminals, riots, due to accidents and during treatment or hospitalisation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.